

Sacred Space Collage depicts the heartbeat of Northminster Presbyterian Church in 2012

Pastor Nancy sowed the seed of a Sacred Space Collage as the culmination of her Sabbatical in 2011. A committee nourished the seed into a tangible artistic project: Rich Schafermeyer, Chair, Nancy Brown, Karen Friedhoff, Mary Gibson, Helen Haberstroh and Gary Lord.

A professional artistic director and colleague of Northminster member Gary Lord, Deb Drager from Wichita, Kansas, was engaged to provide the over arching visual image and guided eleven members in a three-day workshop for its creation.

Funding was underwritten by a generous grant from Northminster's Memorial Fund and several Northminster individuals. Workshop space, materials and training were donated by Gary Lord, Prismatic Painting Studio.

The theme of this collage tells today's story of Northminster Presbyterian Church through its current membership as a community of believers in Jesus Christ who are growing their faith, sharing their hope and showing their love; who are inwardly strong and outwardly focused.

Deb Drager's artistic vision for expressing the theme is a rhythmic depiction of life as the four seasons in Greater Cincinnati using the colors of change, growth and renewal as reflected in the personal experiences of the Northminster community.

Through the congregational "Gatherings" and on-line monkey survey in September, answers to the questions: what brought you to Northminster and what keeps you coming? were captured in print and sent to Deb Drager. Unique mementos from youth groups, adults and children were mailed along with a mountain of photographs, and printed material expressing our mission, programs, worship and outreach.

Over several weeks in her studio, Deb Drager created a large single-canvas proto-type of her vision, selected the paint colors, determined the size of 11 canvases and provided the design of the background tree.

The 9am-5pm three-day marathon workshop at Gary's studio in Blue Ash found a team of 11 Northminster artists applying layers of paint, plaster, glues, glazes, stains, foil, gold, wax, mementos and glitter under Deb's skilled, energetic leadership. She flitted non-stop from one painter to the next, urging, guiding, demonstrating, complimenting, inspiring and sharing the a-ha moments.

The dynamics of varied personalities and ages (20-80) of the artists, mixed with exhaustion and varying degrees of expertise, found affirmation among the team members. In quiet moments of time-out, personal stories were exchanged, faith bloomed and love was shared through prayer.

Artists participating were Marianna Breiner, Kathyne Brockfield, Widaly Desoto-Burt, Claire Dingel, Helen Haberstroh, Gary Lord, Holly Monroe, Nancy Ross-Zimmerman, Rich Schafermeyer, Deb Shelton and Barb Smucker.



Sacred Space Collage

“Over Arching Theme” was designed by Professional Artist Deb Drager from Kansas. It was harvested from Congregational input during the summer and fall of 2012. Deb created a single canvas prototype, selected the colors and designed the layout of each segment as described below.

“**Seasons**” is a visual snapshot of an entire year, showing a full time commitment to the ongoing mission of sharing God’s love. Eleven individual pieces of dimensional canvas are art-stacked, positioned and assembled on the TREE OF LIFE graphic that is silhouetted on the wall underneath.

The TREE OF LIFE background signifies the constant growth and outreach of the congregation within the church and outward to the community, as well as the symbolic significance of the deeply rooted faith that grounds the family together.

Eleven artist participated in the three-day workshop at Gary Lord’s studio to create the collage under the direction of Deb Drager: Marianne Breiner, Kathyne Brockfield, Widaly Desoto-

Burt, Claire Dingle, Helen Haberstroh, Gary Lord, Holly Monroe, Nancy Ross-Zimmerman, Rich Schafermeyer, Deb Shelton and Barb Smucker.

- **The church members are active all year round.**

The four large canvases on the bottom of the collage represent the seasons (winter, spring, summer and fall).

- **Church member are active dawn to dusk.**

The two canvases on the end above the seasons represent dawn and night.



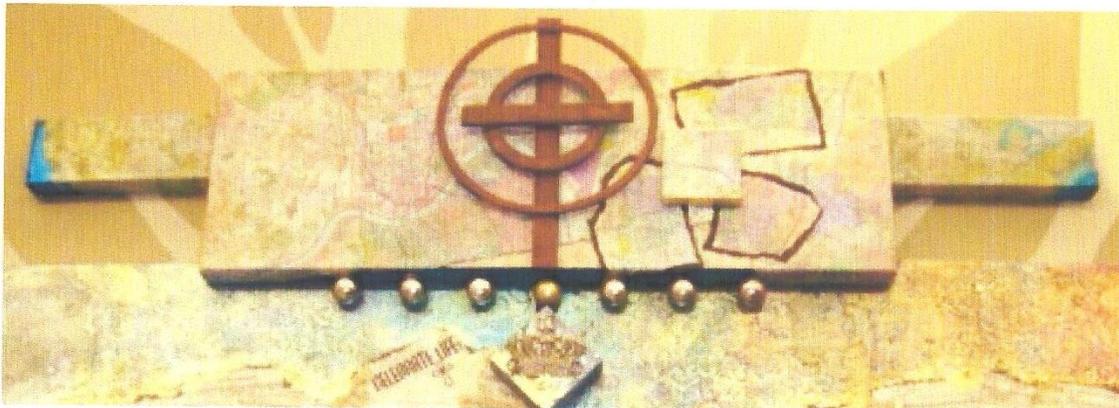
"You are the light of the world.
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden".
Matthew 5:14



"We are the moon faces
Who reflect the light of the Son."
Ephesians 5:8

- **Church members are active seven days a week**

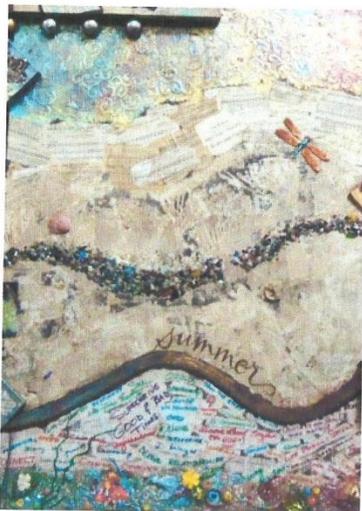
The seven orbs under the upper rectangle represent the days of the week. The six silver orbs represent Monday – Saturday. The centered GOLD ORB represents Sunday.



- **Church members are active in local and greater Cincinnati communities.**

Top rectangular canvas beneath the cross locates Northminster on a map of Finneytown in Springfield Township. Brown outlines on the map identify Wyoming, Greenhills, College Hill

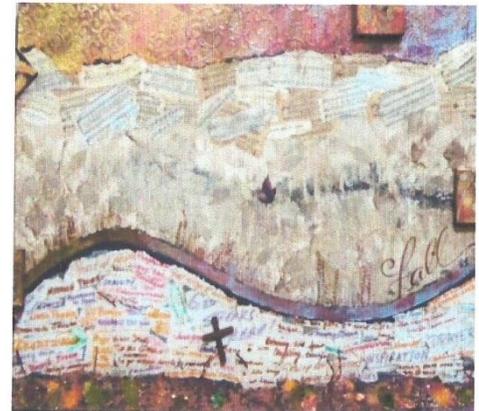
- **Church member are active in mission throughout U.S.A.**
Narrow rectangular canvases (upper left and right) are maps of western and eastern United States
- **Church member are active around the world**
Square canvases upper left and right are maps of continents



Summer

Looking at the Seasons

Deb Drager's artistic vision is "a transition of the cool, neutral shades of winter transforming across the spectrum to the new greens of Spring into the brighter colors of Summer and the rich hues of Fall . . . through layers of texture, pattern and messages."



Fall

"Seasons" is a "visual dance of the diverse family of the congregation intertwined with the nature that surrounds them as they continue to grow, evolve and feed the hearts of all who enter Northminster Presbyterian Church."

Music

Titles according to seasons are a common ribbon of the landscapes located below the sky in each of the four seasons.

- **Winter**: A Song of Mary; All My Heart, Today Rejoice; Amazing Grace; Angels We Have Heard on High; Away in a Manger; Come All Ye Faithful; Hark the Herald Angels Sing; In the Bleak Mid-Winter; Joyful Christmas Day is Here; Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence;

Nearer My God to Thee; Oh Come, Oh Come Emanuel; Silent Night, Holy Night; We Three Kings; What Child is This?

- **Spring:** A Friend; Be Thou My Vision; Canto De Esperanza (Song of Hope); Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna; Clay in the Potter's Hand; Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing; Fierce Raged the Tempest; How Great Thou Art; Jesus Christ is Risen Today; Jesus Loves Me; Knock and the Door Will be Open; Oh Morning So Fair; Oh Sacred Head Now Wounded; Secret Prayer; The Church is Happy Valley; Today We Come Rejoicing; When I Survey the Wondrous Cross; Won't That Be a Happy Time
- **Summer:** America; Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine; Gather Us In; Great Is thy Faithfulness; Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty; How Great Thou Art; I'll Fly Away; I'll Sing It Today; In the House of the Lord; Into My Heart; Jesus is Enough for Me; Jesus the Very Thought of Thee; Jesus Will Walk With Me; Praise Ye the Lord; Precious Blood of Jesus; That Boy Child of Mary; The Harvest Fields are White; Things Bright and Beautiful; Where the Soul Never Dies
- **Fall:** A Great Homecoming Day; A Touch of His Hand; Amen, Amen; At the Name of Jesus; Gathering Flowers for the Master's Bouquet; Halla, Hall, Halleluia; He is Alive; Here I Am, Lord; His Wonderful Love is Mine; How Majestic is Your Name; I'm Going Home; Oh, Cloud of Presence; Oh For A Thousand Tongues to Sing; Our God, Our Help in Ages Past; Praise God for Whom All Blessings Flow; Prayer Bells of Heaven; Reach out to Jesus; Sanctuary; Shine, Shine, Shine; So I Send You; The Harvest Fields are Calling

Strengths: Inwardly Strong, Outwardly Focused

Integrity; relevance of Staff and programs; found recollections; friendliness; mutual caring/support of each other; creative expression through excellence in music and art; all ages serve in mission to all ages here and abroad.

Members and Friends share tangible expressions of their faith and experiences along the bottom panel of each canvas.

- **Winter:** glass from a Youth Group meeting place altar; crèche scene carving; Sunday School attendance award
- **Spring:** coins from a mission trip; crosses from mission trips
- **Summer:** yard doll; a rose in memory of a beloved daughter
- **Fall:** a scattering of dried leaves, berries and twigs against an autumn background

Their words are captured on each large canvas

Members and friends of the church wrote words on pieces of paper that they associate with their memories of Northminster.



Winter



Spring



Spring



Fall

